

is my age, I want our country to be a place where every person who works hard has a chance to live out his or her God-given abilities and dreams. With the education opportunities contained in our historic balanced budget, we have taken a large step toward that goal.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:21 p.m. on August 15 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 16.

Remarks Prior to Departure for Block Island, Rhode Island

August 17, 1997

United Parcel Service Strike

I have just had a conversation with Secretary Herman and with Bruce Lindsey. It's clear that they're making progress in the talks between UPS and the Teamsters, and I just want to urge them to redouble their efforts. This strike is beginning to hurt not only the company but its employees and the people who depend on it. And I think they ought to redouble their efforts to settle this strike, and they ought to do it today. And that's my encouragement to them. I'm pleased by the progress that's been made, and I hope they'll just stay there and settle it today.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 1 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks Upon Arrival in Block Island

August 17, 1997

Thank you. Well, first of all, let me say that Hillary and Chelsea and I are delighted to be here. We want to thank the Senator for coming over with us and thank the first warden for coming out to meet us. It took me a little—a moment to realize that the first warden was the highest elected official on the island. I thought maybe I was about to be arrested for something. *[Laughter]*

And let me say I was stunned to see this crowd when we were coming down in the helicopter. But this is the first opportunity

I have had to thank the people of Rhode Island for giving the Vice President and me the enormous vote of confidence we got here last November. And I'm very grateful to you. Thank you so much.

Let me also say I'm just anxious to be here and have some fun. And I want to go through the crowd and shake hands; I want to have a picture taken with the students there from the Block Island School.

And I hope that all of you will always be committed to preserving this beautiful island. I was so impressed when I came down and Senator Reed was telling me a little about the conservation efforts. We have, all of us, a great responsibility to future generations to figure out how to keep growing this economy. I'm very grateful for the economic success that our Nation has had, for the millions of new jobs we have, for the lowest unemployment and inflation rates in decades. But we have to do it in a way that preserves the natural heritage that God has given us. I can see you're committed to that here, and I hope you will help to spread that to people all across New England and, indeed, all across the United States.

Again, thanks for having us here. We're delighted. And I want to get out and say hello to a few people.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:32 p.m. at Block Island Airport. In his remarks, he referred to First Warden Kimberly H. Gaffett.

Memorandum on Assistance to Colombia

August 16, 1997

Presidential Determination No. 97-31

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Use of Section 614 to Provide Assistance to Colombia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 614(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2364(a)(2) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is vital to the national security interests of the United States to make sales and extend credits to Colombia of up to \$30 million in

Foreign Military Financing under the Arms Export Control Act, without regard to any provision of the law within the scope of section 614. I hereby authorize such making of sales and extensions of credit, including the expenditure of previously obligated Foreign Military Financing funds needed to finance such sales.

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 614(a)(1) of the Act, 22 U.S.C. 2364(a)(1), I hereby determine that it is important to the security interests of the United States to furnish up to \$600,000 in Fiscal Year 1997 funds under Chapter 5 of part II of the Act for Colombia, without regard to any provision of the law within the scope of section 614. I hereby authorize the furnishing of such assistance.

You are authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 18.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Implementation of the Defense Exports Monitoring Program

August 18, 1997

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 40A of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2785), I transmit herewith the first annual report on the implementation of a comprehensive program to monitor the end-use of defense articles and services, and to prevent the diversion of technology incorporated in defense articles, sold, leased, or exported under the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 *et seq.*).

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 19.

Remarks on the Tentative Settlement of the United Parcel Service Strike and an Exchange With Reporters in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts

August 19, 1997

The President. Good afternoon. I would like to compliment UPS and the Teamsters on resolving their differences and agreeing to a new contract. I think it is very much in the interest not only of the company and its employees but also of all of the people it serves and of the United States, and I'm very pleased about it.

I also want to say a special word of thanks and appreciation to Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, who I believe did a very fine job in working with the parties, trying to keep them working together and getting back together. I know that she deserves and will get some much-needed rest today. But I think it's a good thing for the country, and I'm very pleased it's resolved.

Administration's Role

Q. Mr. President, can you walk through your own evolution in this? The first 2 weeks were sort of hands off, and then on Saturday you gave them a little bit of a nudge, and then by the time you reached Martha's Vineyard, it seemed a little more like a push. Why, specifically, did you choose to engage at those two moments?

The President. Well, first of all, the Secretary of Labor had been involved with this almost from the beginning. But I thought it was important to give the parties a chance to work out their differences. And obviously, I was getting reports about where they were. I just wanted to—when it was obvious that they were quite close—it's been my observation, not just from them but sometimes in our negotiations with Congress, for example—sometimes you get very close, and you've got 95 percent of the issues or 99 percent of the issues resolved, and maybe just a little nudge in the right direction helps you go over the top. And I was just hoping to do that.

They did the work, and they deserve the credit. They resolved their differences in a way that I think will be good for the company and good for the employees.